

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 72

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8288

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MEX

SUBJECT: CRASH OF MODEL 212 (XC-BEA) DURING ERADICATION MISSION

SUMMARY: ON SEPT. 19, MODEL 212, XC-BEA, CRASHED INTO TREE TOPS UPON LIFTING OFF FROM RECENTLY DESTROYED MARIHUANA PATCH IN REMOTE AREA APPROX 60 MILES WEST FROM CITY OF GUADALAJARA IN STATE OF JALISCO. BOTH PILOT AND CO-PILOT SUFFERED INJURIES CONSISTING OF FRACTURES TO LIMBS AND POSSIBLE CONCUSSION. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, NONE OF ELEVEN MILITARY TROOPS ON BOARD WAS INJURED. ASSESSMENT BY BHC TECHNICIANS WHO CONDUCTED ON-SITE INSPECTION INDICATES ONLY TURBINES AND SOME INSTRUMENTS ARE SALVAGE-ABLE AS AIRCRAFT LANDED ROTOR DOWN AND STILL IN UPSIDE DOWN POSITON. END SUMMARY.

1. MODEL 212, XC-BEA, WAS RECENTLY DELIVERED TO AG AERO SERVICES SECTION AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN STATE OF JALISCO. ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT 19, AT APPROX NOON, PILOT MANZO AND CO-PILOT RAMIREZ WERE FLYING BELL MODEL 212, XC-BEA, AND WERE TRANSPORTING ELEVEN MILITARY TROOPS. THEY HAD DESTROYED MARIHUANA PATCH APPROX SEVENTY FIVE FEET IN DIAMETER LOCATED APPROX 60 MILES WEST FROM CITY OF GUADALAJARA AND ABOUT FIFTEEN MILIES NW FROM TOWN OF TEQUILA. FIELD IS LOCATED IN V CANYON AT ALTITUDE OF FOUR THOUSAND FEET ON SLOPE BETWEEN FIFTEEN TO TWENTY DEGREES WITH HIGH TREES
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ALL AROUND. ACCORDING TO BHC TECHNICIANS, FIELD IS IN CON-

FINED AREA CLOSE TO SMALL STREAM. DAMAGE TO MAIN ROTOR INDICATES POSSIBLE TREE STRIKE UPON LIFT OFF AND CRASHING INTO WOODED AREA UPSIDE DOWN. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO FUSELAGE INCLUDING PILOT COMPARTMENT AND TAIL BOOM. AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN WOODED AREA CLOSE TO SMALL STREAM.

2. INACCESSIBILITY OF AREA IS UNDERScoreD BY FACT THAT INSPECTION TEAM LANDED APPROX TWO KILOMETERS FROM CRASH SITE AND WERE FERRIED IN BY BELL 206B. BHC TECHNICIANS AGREE TURBINES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENTS AND FITTINGS ARE SALVAGEABLE BUT IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO SALVAGE HULK AS THERE ARE NO ROADS EVEN REMOTELY CLOSE.

3. ON-SITE INSPECTION WAS CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY, SEPT 20, BY PARTY CONSISTING OF CAPT. VIDEZ, AERO SERVICES CHIEF, DEPUTY MAINTENANCE OFFICER GARFIAS MONTIEL; BNC TECHNICIANS DAN RUSSELL AND JOE ALVARES; AND TWO INSPECTORS FROM THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS SECRETARIAT. COPY OF INVESTIGATION AND DAMAGE REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED UPON RECEIPT.

4. BOTH PILOT AND COPILOT CONFINED TO HOSPITAL. HOWEVER, ONLY ONE WAS WEARING HELMET WHICH INDICATES IMPERATIVE NATURE OF HELMET DELIVERY. PLEASE CHECK WITH VENDOR AND EXPEDITE. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE EXACT CAUSE OF CRASH AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. FYI: S/NM LC/CCINC AND SER/INC AWARE THAT UNDER TERMS OF THE TWO MOST RECENT AGREEMENTS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS WHICH UNTIL THIS MOST RECENT LOSS, WOULD HAVE TOTALLED SEVENTEEN BELL 212S FOR THE INTENSIVE ERADICATION CAMPAIGNS IN THE FOUR ZONES BY END OF CY. YOU MAY WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING XC-BEA. PLEASE ADVISE.
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TAGS: SNAR, MX
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Type: TE
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